



NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



Room 433 - State Capitol Bldg. - Jefferson City, MO 65101 - Phone: (573) 751-2306

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2004

For additional information contact:
Barbara Mustoe
(573) 751-2306

CROWDER COLLEGE'S ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROGRAM WILL RECEIVE ADDITIONAL \$200,000 IN FY 2005 BUDGET

JEFFERSON CITY – As part of the 2005 Fiscal Year Budget, Crowder College's alternative energy program will receive \$200,000 as the result of the efforts of Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin.

“Crowder has been at the forefront in the study of alternative energy at both the state and national levels,” said Nodler, who serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee. “Additional funds will allow Crowder to continue to develop this already impressive program.”

Crowder has been involved in alternative energy technology for more than 20 years, both in transportation and housing.

“Political and business leaders are beginning to realize that our current dependence on fossil fuel is bad for the economy and harmful to the environment,” Nodler said. “Crowder is demonstrating in the most tangible and practical sense that alternative energy is the fuel of the future.”

Crowder built the first solar-powered vehicle to cross the U.S. in 1983. The vehicle was later donated to the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich. Crowder's second solar vehicle competed in the first World Solar Challenge in Australia in 1987. With the exception of the multi-million dollar GM Sunraycer, Crowder's car bested all American and Japanese teams in the event. The college's third solar car, raced in the first U.S. Sunrayce in 1990, finished fifth overall and defeated major university teams including MIT.

The college has successfully participated in several national and international solar vehicle competitions, and has a solar-powered house on campus that was built for the national Solar Decathlon competition in Washington, D.C. where it received the technical innovation award.

“It has been the only community college to participate in these competitions and has made good standings in all of them,” said Nodler.

In 1992, the Missouri Legislature named Crowder the first center for renewable energy education and applied research.

“This additional funding will benefit not only Crowder College, but the entire state of Missouri,” Nodler said. “Crowder’s innovative programs are allowing this state to take the lead in the innovative field of alternative energy.”

– END –